

# IMAP MESSAGELIMIT extensions

draft-ietf-extra-imap-messagelimit-01.txt  
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# Background

- MESSAGELIMIT was split off (from PARTIAL) into a separate WG draft
- MESSAGELIMIT limits the number of messages that can be operated upon in a single FETCH/SEARCH/STORE/COPY/MOVE
- Can be implemented separately from the IMAP PARTIAL extension, but there are some interactions. The document has examples of using just the MESSAGELIMIT and both together.

# Changes since -00

- As this extension breaks IMAP4rev1/IMAP4rev2 guarantees about atomicity of COPY/UID COPY, this version now requires IMAP client to “opt in” into this behaviour using the ENABLE MESSAGELIMIT command.

# Open Issues:

## COPY/UID COPY atomicity

Consider:

C: 05 UID COPY 18000:21000 "Trash"

S: \* **NO** [**MESSAGELIMIT** 1000 20001] Too many messages to copy

S: 05 **OK** [COPYUID 1397597919 20001:21000 21363:22362] COPY completed for the last 1000 messages

versa

C: 05 UID COPY 18000:21000 "Trash"

S: 05 **NO** [**MESSAGELIMIT** 1000 20001] Too many messages to copy

The former does something when the client opts in using ENABLE, but this will break naive clients that don't understand this.

What is the motivation for clients to opt in? Client writers need to write more complicated code if they do.

# Open Issues:

## COPY/UID COPY atomicity

- What is the motivation for clients to "opt in" into non atomic copy?
  - Client writers need to write more complicated code if they do!
  - Is there a better way for servers that have to use MESSAGELIMIT to work with clients that don't support MESSAGELIMIT?

# Open Issues: Extra SEARCH criteria

- Do we need "all UIDs after" and/or "all UIDs before" a specific UID?
  - "UIDAFTER uniqueid"
  - "UIDBEFORE uniqueid"
- ?

# Open Issues: Extra SEARCH criteria

- Example (using IMAP4rev2 or SEARCHRES, and PARTIAL):

C: A300 SEARCH RETURN (SAVE MAX) SINCE 1-Jan-2022 NOT FROM "Smith"

S: A300 OK SEARCH completed

C: A301 UID SEARCH RETURN (SAVE **PARTIAL -1:-50**) UIDBEFORE \$

S: A301 OK completed

- Or in English: Find the last message since 1-Jan-2022 which is not from "Smith" than basically "save" 50 UIDs before it.
- UIDBEFORE/UIDAFTER make it easier to pipeline such requests.

# To Do: MESSAGELIMIT and SEARCHRES interaction

C: B301 UID SEARCH RETURN (SAVE **PARTIAL -1:-1000**) <criteria>

S: B301 OK [MESSAGELIMIT 100 554] Partial result

- If MESSAGELIMIT is 100, what should be saved in the "\$" variable?  
Need to clarify.



# Next steps

- After the previous example I think there is a need to document how MESSAGELIMIT interacts with SEARCHRES/IMAP4rev2
- MESSAGELIMIT - any interest in implementing?